

# Week 4: Data Manipulation with R

Journalism 303: An introduction to the  
dplyr package

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# Objectives



1) Common data manipulation tasks

2) `dplyr`'s verbs

3) the pipe `%>%`

# Materials



Follow along with the exercises:

<https://mjfrigaard.github.io/csuc-data-journalism/lessons-exercises.html>

A web version of these slides is located:

<https://mjfrigaard.github.io/csuc-data-journalism/slides.html>

# What are common data manipulation tasks?



1. Viewing the dataset
2. Choosing columns/rows
3. Ordering rows
4. Changing existing columns
5. Creating or calculating new columns



**dp<sub>l</sub>yr** = a grammar for data  
manipulation

# dp`l`yr = "dee + ply + ARRRRR"



*Pliers* are tools for grasping or manipulating common objects

The **dp`l`yr** package has a variety of verbs for performing common data manipulations



# The starwars dataset



These data come from the Star Wars API:



Read more about the data here:

<https://dplyr.tidyverse.org/reference/starwars.html>

# Load the `starwars` dataset



The `starwars` data comes from the `dplyr` package, so we can access it using the code below:

```
install.packages("dplyr")  
library(dplyr)  
dplyr::starwars
```

We'll use a smaller version of this dataset (`original_starwars`) to show `dplyr`'s common data manipulation verbs

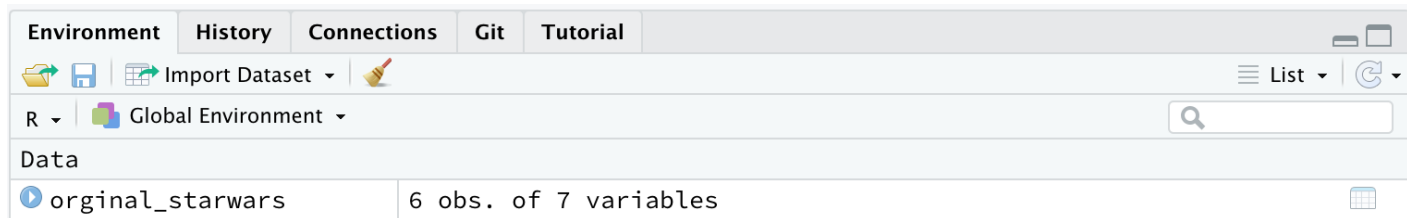


# Import original\_starwars

Import the data using the url and readr

```
library(readr)
original_starwars <- read_csv("https://bit.ly/mini-strwrs")
```

This loads the dataset into our *Environment* pane



# dplyr verbs



The primary verbs for data manipulation in **dplyr**:

**glimpse()**

**select()**

**filter()**

**arrange()**

**mutate()**



# Viewing the data = **glimpse()**

*We need to view the data we're manipulating to see if the changes are correct*

# View = glimpse()

Take a look at the entire dataset using `dplyr::glimpse()`

```
glimpse(original_starwars)
```

```
## Rows: 6
## Columns: 6
## $ name      <chr> "Luke Skywalker", "C-3P0", "R2-D2", "Le...
## $ height    <dbl> 172, 167, 96, 150, 228, 180
## $ mass      <dbl> 77, 75, 32, 49, 112, 80
## $ hair_color <chr> "blond", NA, NA, "brown", "brown", "bro...
## $ species    <chr> "Human", "Droid", "Droid", "Human", "Wo...
## $ homeworld  <chr> "Tatooine", "Tatooine", "Naboo", "Alder..."
```

**`glimpse()`** transposes the data and prints as much of it to the screen as possible



# View the data in the Console

*Enter the name of the dataset to print it to the Console*

```
original_starwars
```

<b>name</b>	<b>height</b>	<b>mass</b>	<b>hair_color</b>	<b>species</b>	<b>homeworld</b>
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
Luke Skywalker	172	77	blond	Human	Tatooine
C-3PO	167	75	NA	Droid	Tatooine
R2-D2	96	32	NA	Droid	Naboo
Leia Organa	150	49	brown	Human	Alderaan
Chewbacca	228	112	brown	Wookiee	Kashyyyk
Han Solo	180	80	brown	Human	Corellia

6 rows



# View the data in the *Data Viewer*

View the **original\_starwars** dataset using RStudio's data editor



Click

View

The RStudio Data Viewer is shown with a red border. It displays the 'original\_starwars' dataset as a table with 6 rows and 7 columns. The columns are name, height, mass, gender, species, and homeworld. The rows are numbered 1 to 6. The table is titled 'original\_starwars' and has a 'Filter' button above it.

	name	height	mass	gender	species	homeworld
1	Luke Skywalker	172	77	masculine	Human	Tatooine
2	C-3PO	167	75	masculine	Droid	Tatooine
3	R2-D2	96	32	masculine	Droid	Naboo
4	Leia Organa	150	49	feminine	Human	Alderaan
5	Chewbacca	228	112	masculine	Wookiee	Kashyyyk
6	Han Solo	180	80	masculine	Human	Corellia





Choosing columns = **select()**

# Choose columns with `select()`



**`select()`** allows us to pick specific columns out of a dataset

```
select(original_starwars, name, homeworld, species)
```

<b>name</b>	<b>homeworld</b>	<b>species</b>
<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
Luke Skywalker	Tatooine	Human
C-3PO	Tatooine	Droid
R2-D2	Naboo	Droid
Leia Organa	Alderaan	Human
Chewbacca	Kashyyyk	Wookiee
Han Solo	Corellia	Human

6 rows



# Choose columns with `select()`



We can use negation (`-`) to remove columns

```
select(original_starwars, -c(mass, height, hair_color))
```

<b>name</b>	<b>species</b>	<b>homeworld</b>
<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
Luke Skywalker	Human	Tatooine
C-3PO	Droid	Tatooine
R2-D2	Droid	Naboo
Leia Organa	Human	Alderaan
Chewbacca	Wookiee	Kashyyyk
Han Solo	Human	Corellia

6 rows

# select() helpers



**select()** comes with 'helpers' to make choosing columns easier (and reduces typing!)

Helper	Outputs
<code>starts_with()</code>	choose columns starting with...
<code>ends_with()</code>	choose columns ending with...
<code>contains</code>	choose columns with names containing...
<code>matches()</code>	choose columns matching regex...
<code>one_of()</code>	choose columns from a set of names...
<code>num_range()</code>	choose columns from a numerical index...

# Choose columns with `select()`



## Select columns using `matches()`

```
select(original_starwars, name, matches("_"))
```

name	hair_color
<chr>	<chr>
Luke Skywalker	blond
C-3PO	NA
R2-D2	NA
Leia Organa	brown
Chewbacca	brown
Han Solo	brown

6 rows



See the **select()** exercises for  
more examples!



# Choosing rows with **filter()**

# Choose rows with `filter()`

`filter()` lets us pull out rows based on logical conditions

```
filter(original_starwars, species == "Human")
```

name	height	mass	hair_color	species	homeworld
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
Luke Skywalker	172	77	blond	Human	Tatooine
Leia Organa	150	49	brown	Human	Alderaan
Han Solo	180	80	brown	Human	Corellia

3 rows



# Choose rows with `filter()`

`filter()` logical conditions include:

Logical Test	Outputs
<code>&lt;</code>	Less than
<code>&gt;</code>	Greater than
<code>==</code>	Equal to
<code>&lt;=</code>	Less than or equal to
<code>&gt;=</code>	Greater than or equal to
<code>!=</code>	Not equal to
<code>%in%</code>	Group membership
<code>is.na()</code>	is NA (missing)
<code>!is.na()</code>	is not NA (non-missing)



# Choose rows with `filter()`

Combine logical conditions with `&` or `,`

*this gets the same results...*

```
filter(original_starwars,  
       species == "Human" & !is.na(hair_color))
```

name	height	mass	hair_color	species	homeworld
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
Luke Skywalker	172	77	blond	Human	Tatooine
Leia Organa	150	49	brown	Human	Alderaan
Han Solo	180	80	brown	Human	Corellia

3 rows





# Choose rows with `filter()`



Combine logical conditions with `&` or `,`

*...as this*

```
filter(original_starwars,  
       species == "Human" , !is.na(hair_color))
```

name	height	mass	hair_color	species	homeworld
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
Luke Skywalker	172	77	blond	Human	Tatooine
Leia Organa	150	49	brown	Human	Alderaan
Han Solo	180	80	brown	Human	Corellia

3 rows

# Choose rows with `filter()`



Remember that *any* logical condition works for `filter()`ing, so we can borrow functions from other packages to help us

```
filter(original_starwars,  
       str_detect(string = name, pattern = "[:digit:]"))
```

The `stringr::str_detect()` function returns a logical condition, so we can use it *inside* `filter()`

name	height	mass	hair_color	species	homeworld
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
C-3PO	167	75	NA	Droid	Tatooine
R2-D2	96	32	NA	Droid	Naboo

2 rows



See the **filter()** exercises for  
more examples!



# Sorting rows with **arrange()**

# Sort rows with `arrange()`



`arrange()` sorts the contents of a dataset (ascending or descending)

```
arrange(original_starwars, height)
```

<b>name</b>	<b>height</b>	<b>mass</b>	<b>hair_color</b>	<b>species</b>	<b>homeworld</b>
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
R2-D2	96	32	NA	Droid	Naboo
Leia Organa	150	49	brown	Human	Alderaan
C-3PO	167	75	NA	Droid	Tatooine
Luke Skywalker	172	77	blond	Human	Tatooine
Han Solo	180	80	brown	Human	Corellia
Chewbacca	228	112	brown	Wookiee	Kashyyyk

6 rows

# Sort rows with `arrange()`



`arrange()`'s default is to sort ascending--include `desc()` to sort descending

```
arrange(original_starwars, desc(height))
```

<b>name</b>	<b>height</b>	<b>mass</b>	<b>hair_color</b>	<b>species</b>	<b>homeworld</b>
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
Chewbacca	228	112	brown	Wookiee	Kashyyyk
Han Solo	180	80	brown	Human	Corellia
Luke Skywalker	172	77	blond	Human	Tatooine
C-3PO	167	75	NA	Droid	Tatooine
Leia Organa	150	49	brown	Human	Alderaan
R2-D2	96	32	NA	Droid	Naboo

6 rows



See the **arrange()** exercises  
for more examples!

# Create columns with `mutate()`

`mutate()` allows us to create new columns



```
mutate(original_starwars,  
  # create new bmi variable  
  bmi = mass / ((height / 100) ^ 2))
```

name	height	m...	hair_color	species	homewo...	bmi
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>	<dbl>
Luke Skywalker	172	77	blond	Human	Tatooine	26.02758
C-3PO	167	75	NA	Droid	Tatooine	26.89232
R2-D2	96	32	NA	Droid	Naboo	34.72222
Leia Organa	150	49	brown	Human	Alderaan	21.77778
Chewbacca	228	112	brown	Wookiee	Kashyyyk	21.54509
Han Solo	180	80	brown	Human	Corellia	24.69136

6 rows



# Create columns with `mutate()`



**`mutate()`** allows us to change existing columns, too

```
mutate(original_starwars,  
  # create bmi  
  bmi = mass / ((height / 100) ^ 2),  
  # change bmi  
  bmi = round(bmi, digits = 0))
```

name	height	mass	hair_color	species	homeworld	bmi
<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>	<dbl>
Luke Skywalker	172	77	blond	Human	Tatooine	26
C-3PO	167	75	NA	Droid	Tatooine	27
R2-D2	96	32	NA	Droid	Naboo	35
Leia Organa	150	49	brown	Human	Alderaan	22
Chewbacca	228	112	brown	Wookiee	Kashyyyk	22
Han Solo	180	80	brown	Human	Corellia	25

6 rows



See the **mutate()** exercises for  
more examples!



# Write clearer code with the pipe

**%>%**

# The pipe (%>%)



The pipe comes from the **magrittr** package:

<https://magrittr.tidyverse.org/>

The pipe makes our code easier to read (and write)

Create pipes easily with keyboard shortcuts

*Mac*

**Cmd + Shift + M**

*Windows*

**Crtl + Shift + M**

# How the pipe (`%>%`) works



Without the pipe, we have to constantly assign the output to new object:

```
first_output <- first_function(input)
```

```
second_output <- second_function(first_output)
```

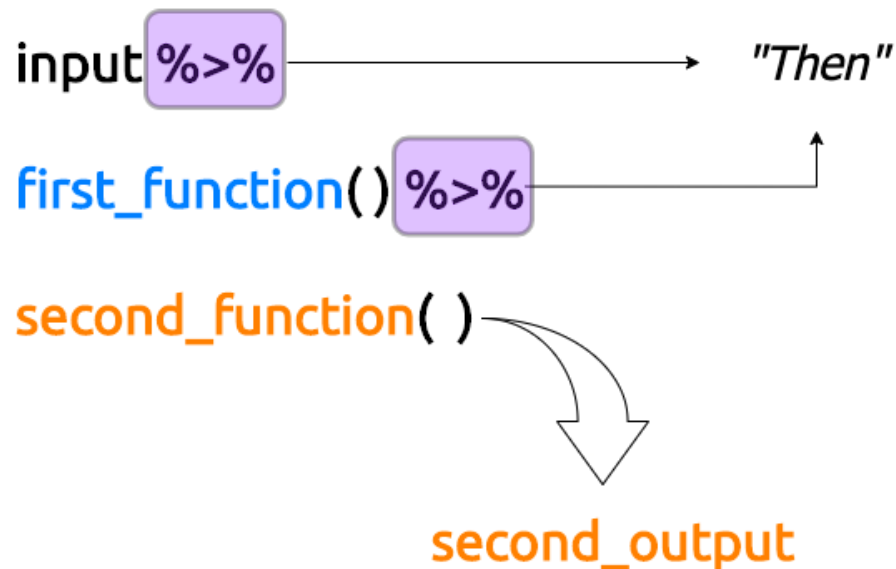
Or use nested functions:

```
second_output <- second_function(first_function(input), first_output)
```

# How the pipe (`%>%`) works



The pipe allows us to pass the output from functions left-to-right



*`%>%` can be read as "then"*

# Creating pipelines of functions



Review the code below and think about what each object contains:

1. Filter `original_starwars` to only brown-haired characters over 100 cm tall
2. Create a `bmi` column using: `mass / ((height / 100) ^ 2)`
3. Select `name`, `bmi`, and `homeworld`
4. Arrange the data by `bmi`, descending

```
object_01 <- filter(original_starwars,  
                     hair_color == "brown" & height > 100)  
object_02 <- mutate(object_01, bmi = mass / ((height / 100) ^ 2))  
object_03 <- select(object_02, name, bmi, homeworld)  
object_04 <- arrange(object_03, desc(bmi))
```

# Creating pipelines of functions

Re-write these functions into a pipeline, ending with a single output (`new_original_starwars`)

1. Filter `original_starwars` to only brown-haired characters over 100 cm tall
2. Create a `bmi` column using: `mass / ((height / 100) ^ 2)`
3. Select `name`, `bmi`, and `homeworld`
4. Arrange the data by `bmi`, descending

```
original_starwars %>%  
  filter(hair_color == "_____" & height > ___) %>%  
  mutate(___ = mass / ((height / 100) ^ 2)) %>%  
  select(____, bmi, _____) %>%  
  arrange(____(bmi)) -> new_original_starwars
```





# Creating pipelines of functions

The answer is below:

```
original_starwars %>%  
  filter(hair_color == "brown" & height > 100) %>%  
  mutate(bmi = mass / ((height / 100) ^ 2)) %>%  
  select(name, bmi, homeworld) %>%  
  arrange(desc(bmi)) -> new_original_starwars  
new_original_starwars
```

name	bmi	homeworld
<chr>	<dbl>	<chr>
Han Solo	24.69136	Corellia
Leia Organa	21.77778	Alderaan
Chewbacca	21.54509	Kashyyyk

3 rows





See the **pipe** exercises for more examples!

# Resources for Data Manipulation

1. R for Data Science
2. Data Wrangling with R
3. Stack Overflow questions tagged with `dplyr`
4. RStudio Community posts tagged `dplyr`

